

## Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07

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R 301800Z APR 76

FM AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4377

INFO AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

AMEMBASSY PRIS

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

C O N F I D E N T I A L ALGIERS 1110

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, AG

SUBJECT: ALGERIAN DRAFT NATIONAL CHARTER PUBLISHED AND OPENED TO  
DEBATE

1. SUMMARY: JUST PUBLISHED 280-PAGE NATIONAL CHARTER GIVES STATUS REPORT ON SOCIALISM IN ALGERIA AND MAKES IT CLEAR THAT SOCIALIST OPTION IS NOT OPEN FOR DEBATE. ROLE OF FLN SEEMS LESS THAN MIGHT HAVE BEEN EXPECTED. CHARTER'S MODERATE POSITION ON WOMEN'S RIGHTS AND PRIVATE ENTERPRISE MAY COME UNDER FIRE IN DEBATE ON CHARTER WHICH TAKES PLACE DURING MAY. HOWEVER, REAL STRUCTURE OF "NEW ALGERIA" WILL NOT BE WELL KNOWN UNTIL AFTER PROMULGATION OF CONSTITUTION AND PRESIDENTIAL AND NATIONAL ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS LATER THIS YEAR. END SUMMARY.

2. ON APRIL 27 PRESIDENT BOUMEDIENE ANNOUNCED THE DRAFT NATIONAL CHARTER WAS READY FOR PUBLICATION AND PRESS THEN PUBLISHED OWI0-PAGE DOCUMENT IN FOUR DAILY INSTALLMENTS. IN HIS BRIEF SPEECH APRIL 27, BOUMEDIENE SURPRISED NATION BY NOTED THAT CHARTER IS NOT A CON TITUION,  
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RATHER IT IS "CROWING OF EFFORTS OF MANY AND LONG

YEARS OF WORK" AND PRELUDE TO CREATION OF NATIONAL POLITICAL INSTITUTIONS. THESE WILL INCLUDE CONSTITUTION, AND ELECTED PRESIDENT AND NATIONAL ASSEMBLY.

3. CHARTER SEEMS INTENDED STATUS REPORT ON DEVELOPMENT OF SOCIALISM IN ALGERIA, AND IS FIRST SUCH MAJOR IDEOLOGICAL PRONOUNCEMENT SINCE GQOYTM DOCUMENT IS DIVIDED INTO SEVEN CHAPTERS: BUILDING OF SOCIALIST SOCIETY; PARTH AND STATE; AXES OF BUILDING OF SOCIALISM; NATIONAL DEFENSE; EXTERIOR POLICY; PRINCIPLE ORIENTATIONS OF DEVELOPMENT POTENTIAL; AND MAJOR OBJECTIVES OF DEVELOPMENT.

4. THROUGHOUT, CHARTER ASSERTS THAT SOCIALISM HAS BEEN ACHIEVED IN ALGERIA AND THAT DEVELOPMENT OF SOCIALIST OPTION IN THIS COUNTRY IS IRREVERSIBLE. FEUDALISM HAS BEEN CRUSHED AND EXPLOITATION ON ONE MAN BY ANOTHER NOW ANATHEMA. NEVERTHELESS, DESPITE DEPARTURE OF FEUDALISM, "FEUDALIST ETHIC" REMAINS. THIS ETHIC INCLUDES LOCKWAR IDEAS RE CONDITION OF WOMEN, TRIBAL SPIRIT, FAMILY OR COMMUNITY PARASITISM, CULT OF MONEY, AND FATALISM RE OUTMODED, EXPLOITATIVE SOCIAL RELATIONSHIPS.

5. FROM CHARTER AND ILLUMINATING PRESS BRIEFING GIVEN BY INFORMATION MINISTER TALEB APRIL 29, IT APPEARS THAT, BEHIND 70,000 WORDS OF VERBIAGE, FOLLOWING ISSUES AMONG IMPORTANT ONES:

A. ROLE OF FLN: DESPITE ITS DESCRIPTION AS BODY WHICH ORIENTS AND CONTROLS NATIONAL POLICY, FLN DOES NOT APPEAR DESTINED FOR GREAT THINGS IN IMMEDIATE FUTURE. ACCORDING TO TALEB'S PREPARATIONS FOR SECOND PARTY CONGRESS WILL BEGIN LATE THIS YEAR ONLY AFTER NATIONAL ELECTIONS AND REFERENDUM ON CHARTER AND CONSTITUTION ARE FINISHED. PARTY EVIDENTLY WILL NOT BE IN VANGUARD AS NATIONAL POLITICAL INSTITUTIONS SET UP.

BBM ROLE OF WOMEN: CHARTER PROMISES TO GUARANTEE FREEDOM OF WOMEN TO PARTICIPATE IN NATIONAL, POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL LIFE AND NOTES THAT FORTHCOMING FAMILY CODE WILL HELP TO LIBERATE WOMEN FROM FEUDAL VESTIGES. CONFIDENTIAL

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IT TOPS SHORT, HOWEVER, OF SPELLING OUT WOMEN'S EQUAL RIGHTS TO EMPLOYMENT, ETC., AND TALEB MADE IT CLEAR THAT WOMEN'S ROLE HAD BEEN, AND WOULD CONTINUE TO BE, MAJOR ISSUE.

C. PRIVATE SECTOR: CHARTER ASSERTS THAT PRIVATE ENTERPRISE REMAINS LEGITIMATE AS LONG AS EXPLOITATION NOT INVOLVED AND BREAKS NEW GROUND IN DENYING RIGHT OF BUSINESSMAN TO PARTICIPATE IN GOVERNMENT AND PARTY. IN

PRESS CONFERENCE, TALEB MADE IT CLEAR THAT STATE OF PRIVATE ENTERPRISE STILL OPEN TO QUESTION, AND CHARTER'S POSITION SEEMS TO SEEK MIDDLE GROWTH BETWEEN "BOURGEOISIE" AND RADICAL SOCIALISM.

6. NATIONAL DEBATE: ACCORDING TO TALEB, NATIONAL DEBATE ON CHARTER WILL GO ON AT LEAST UNTIL END OF MAY AND PERHAPS LONGER. MASS ORGANIZATIONS (PARTY, WOMEN, LABOR, AND YOUTH) WILL PASS SUGGESTIONS UP LINE FROM GRASS-ROOTS LEVEL, AND EACH ORGANIZATION WILL PREPARE REPORT BASED ON THESE COMMENTS. SIMILARLY, EXISTING LOCAL AND PROVINCIAL ASSEMBLIES WILL GO THROUGH SAME EXERCISE. FINAL SUGGESTIONS WILL BE PASSED TO NATIONAL COMMISSION ON CHARTER. DEBATE WILL ALSO BE ENCODED THROUGH MEDIA. TALEB READILY AGREED TO JOURNALIST OBSERVATIONS THAT CHARTER FULL OF CONTRADICTIONS AND SAID HE EXPECTED NATIONAL DEBATE WOULD RESOLVE INCONSISTENCIES.

7. TIMETABLE: CHARTER TO BE ADOPTED BY REFERENDUM, PROBABLY PRIOR TO JUNE 19 ANNIVERSARY OF BOUMEDIENE'S COUP. NEXT DRAFT CONSTITUTION WILL UNDERGO SIMILAR SCRUTINY AND REFERENDUM AND THEN NATIONAL ASSEMBLY AND PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS WILL BE HELD. PROCESS TO BE OVER BY END OF YEAR.

8. COMMENT: ON BASIS HIS PRESS CONFERENCE REMARKS, WE JUDGE THAT TALEB AT LEAST EXPECTS REAL NATIONAL DEBATE ON CHARTER. SO FAR, REGIME HAS NOT SHOWN ANY SIGNS OF GETTING DOCUMENT ACROSS TO MASSES IN ANYTHING LIKE DIGESTIBLE FORM. HOWEVER, ISSUES SUCH AS WOMEN'S RIGHTS AND PRIVATE PROPERTY SEEM TO GENERATE CONSIDERABLE HEAT, AND IT MAY BE THAT THERE MAY BE SOMETHING LIKE REAL DEBATE ON THEM.

9. QUESTIONS AS TO WHAT SORT OF STATE "NEW ALGERIA" WILL BE MUST APPARENTLY AWAIT PROMULGATION OF  
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CONSTITUTION. CHARTER LEAVES NO DOUBT, HOWEVER, THAT "NEW ALGERIA" IS DESIGNED TO CONTINUE ALONG EVER-DEEPENING SOCIALIST TROUGH. PARKER

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